



This is an official
DHEC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network

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10295-DAD-06-28-2013-TB

Initial: Tuberculosis in Newberry County, South Carolina

Summary

DHEC is providing information regarding the investigation of tuberculosis in Newberry County for health care providers.

The patient (index case) is under the care of a physician, and has begun treatment. This patient is infectious, and a contact investigation is underway. There have been secondary noninfectious cases identified from this index case. Where appropriate, treatment is being initiated.

DHEC will contact any additional persons who may have been exposed as part of this continuing investigation.

Case Definition

For the purposes of this investigation, a case is defined as an individual who has an epidemiologic link to an individual with infectious tuberculosis related to this investigation and has:

- Repeated or prolonged face-to-face contact with an infectious individual in a poorly ventilated area OR
- Significant exposure to an area of confined air space shared by the infectious individual that would allow sustained suspension of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in droplet nuclei.

AND has:

- TST or Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) screening test positive,
- AFB smear positive, OR
- CXR findings suggestive of TB disease

Guidance for Clinicians

DHEC is recommending that clinicians in Newberry and surrounding counties (Fairfield, Chester, Saluda) immediately refer individuals with symptoms consistent with pulmonary tuberculosis to their local county health department for evaluation. Symptoms of tuberculosis may include:

- prolonged cough of > than 3 weeks
- chest pain
- coughing of blood
- weakness
- weight loss
- fever/chills
- loss of appetite

- night sweats

TB Screening

DHEC is contacting individuals for whom TB testing is recommended. DHEC does not recommend TB screening for individuals at low risk of exposure and advises health care providers to be aware of false positive screening tests among low risk populations. DHEC recommendations for TB screening are consistent with Guidelines for the Investigation of Contacts of Persons with Infectious Tuberculosis (2). Health care providers can consult with DHEC about TB screening recommendations for individuals who have not been notified by DHEC but who remain concerned about TB exposure. DHEC is providing screening tests for all individuals for whom testing was recommended as part of this investigation. DHEC will charge for testing if a provider requests TB screening for an individual who is not defined as being at risk of exposure.

Laboratory Testing

Specimen Collection:

Health care providers should follow appropriate infection control precautions when collecting clinical specimens in order to prevent the transmission of TB in health-care settings (3).

Specimen Submission:

The DHEC Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) can perform cultures for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* on sputum and other body fluids. DHEC requests that clinical specimens obtained from individuals who are suspected to be contacts for this investigation be submitted to the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories.

Use DHEC Request Form 1335. Include the patient demographic information and the specimen collection/source. Indicate Test #601: Clinical Specimen for ID and smear.

Refer to BOL Services Guide section II-30 Mycobacterial Culture, other than Blood for specimen collection and submission guidelines. If you have any additional questions please contact the DHEC Mycobacteriology (TB) Laboratory at 803-896-0828.

Reporting of Cases

- Positive TB screening tests for individuals that are potentially related to this investigation should be reported to the DHEC TB Control Division at 803-898-0558, M-F, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

For additional information, please contact 1-800-898-0558.

Resources for additional information:

1. Controlling Tuberculosis in the United States. Recommendations from the American Thoracic Society, CDC, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5412.pdf>
2. Guidelines for the Investigation of Contacts of Persons with Infectious Tuberculosis. Recommendations from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association and CDC.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5415.pdf>
3. Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Health-Care Settings, 2005. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5417a1.htm>

DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of Tuberculosis is consistent with South Carolina law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20). The DHEC 2013 List of Reportable Conditions is available at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/reportables.htm>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Regional Public Health Offices – 2013

Mail or call reports to the Tuberculosis Office in each Public Health Region.

LOW COUNTRY PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 579-4572
Fax: (843) 579-4625

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 549-1516
Fax: (843) 549-6845

Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg
PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 268-5833
Fax: (803) 268-5806

MIDLANDS PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland
2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2870
Fax: (803) 576-2880

Chester, Kershaw, Lancaster, York
PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418

Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, Saluda
222 Beaufort Street, NE
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1604
Fax: (803) 643-4018

PEE DEE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion
145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4835
Fax: (843) 661-4844

Clarendon, Lee, Sumter
PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-6366

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg
1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8800
Fax: (843) 365-0110

UPSTATE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

Anderson, Oconee
220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-5541
Fax: (864) 260-5564

Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick
1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: (864) 942-3600
Fax: (864) 942-3690

Greenville, Pickens
PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 372-3101
Fax: (864) 282-4294

UPSTATE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION (continued)

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union
PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-3337
Fax: (864) 596-3340

**DHEC Bureau of Disease Control
Division of Tuberculosis Control**
1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0558
Fax: (803) 898-0685



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